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GENERAL ASSEMBLY
Forty-eighth session
Items 34, 35, 85 and 86 of the
preliminary list*
THE SITUATION IN THE MIDDLE EAST
QUESTION OF PALESTINE
UNITED NATIONS RELIEF AND WORKS AGENCY
FOR PALESTINE REFUGEES IN THE NEAR
EAST
REPORT OF THE SPECIAL COMMITTEE TO
INVESTIGATE ISRAELI PRACTICES
AFFECTING THE HUMAN RIGHTS OF THE
PALESTINIAN PEOPLE AND OTHER ARABS
OF THE OCCUPIED TERRITORIES

SECURITY COUNCIL
Forty-eighth year

Letter dated 16 March 1993 from the Permanent Representative of Senegal to the United Nations addressed to the Secretary-General

I have the honour to transmit to you herewith the text of a statement made on 10 March 1993 by His Excellency Mr. Abdou Diouf, President of the Republic of Senegal and current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, concerning the situation in Palestine (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the text of this letter and its annex circulated as an official document of the General Assembly, under items 34, 35, 85 and 86 of the preliminary list, and of the Security Council.

(Signed) Kéba Birane CISSE

* A/48/50.

ANNEX

Statement made on 10 March 1993 by the President of Senegal, current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference

The situation in Palestine and the Middle East continues to deteriorate dangerously because of the Israeli authorities' persistent refusal to allow the immediate return of the Palestinians deported by the Israeli Government from the Gaza Strip - an occupied Palestinian territory - almost three months ago to a part of Lebanese territory that is also occupied.

This unacceptable act jeopardizes Arab-Israeli negotiations and has serious implications for international peace and security.

By its collective deportation, which even it has called "exceptional", the Israeli Government has contravened its own domestic law, which particularizes crimes and their punishment, violated international norms and conventions, in particular the fourth Geneva Convention of 1949, and undermined the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Lebanon.

This action by the Israeli Government was openly condemned by the Security Council, whose 15 members unanimously adopted, on 18 December 1992, resolution 799 (1992), which "demands that Israel ... ensure the safe and immediate return to the occupied territories of all those deported". Instead of complying, the Israeli Government publicly announced its categorical rejection of this injunction by the principal body responsible for the maintenance of international peace and security.

In the light of the unjust and unjustified prolongation of the suffering of the Palestinian deportees and the deterioration of the political situation in the occupied territories and in the Middle East, I have contacted, in my capacity as current Chairman of the Organization of the Islamic Conference, the Heads of State and Government of the countries members of the Security Council, the current President of the European Economic Community and the Secretary-General of the United Nations in order to stress the urgent need to find a legal solution to this question, in keeping with the relevant Security Council resolutions.

Abdou DIOUF